

force action on those fronts, to compel agreement on a comprehensive budget plan along the lines of the 2010 Bowles-Simpson Commission proposal or the budget agreements that produced four years of surpluses under President Bill Clinton.

Congress failed to produce such a plan, however, because Republicans refused to consider increasing revenues or closing special-interest loopholes. Today's Republicans value their anti-tax ideology far more than the defense cuts that were supposed to drive them to the bargaining table. As sequestration approached, more and more of them said, "Bring it on."

Now that the cuts are coming, members are scrambling, sometimes to apply Band-Aids, sometimes to insist that the president spare programs they favor. One day there is an outcry about reduced meat inspections, on another an insistence that tuition benefits for military personnel be restored, on another that air-traffic controllers be kept on duty in little-used airports. The latest uproar started two days ago. Federal Aviation Administration furloughs of air traffic controllers at large airports kicked in, delaying flights across the country—at Charlotte Douglas International Airport 31.2 percent of flights were delayed. My North Carolina colleague, Rep. Renee Ellmers, recently introduced a bill to reverse Medicare cuts for cancer treatment, calling the cuts an "unintended consequence" of sequestration. In fact, the 2 percent cuts were an intended and easily anticipated consequence of sequestration.

Congress has now passed appropriations bills for the remainder of 2013, locking in place the sequestration spending levels. Scattered provisions mitigate specific sequestration impacts, but the result often is to shift the cuts to equally important areas that aren't in the news at the moment. Fort Bragg, adjacent to my district, now faces a furlough of civilian employees and a 34 percent cut in its operating budget. And sequestration comes on top of \$1 trillion in cuts to domestic programs already adopted. Together, these cuts have driven major disease research off a cliff—fewer than 10 percent of proposals to fund heart disease, cancer and diabetes research are being funded—and slowed road and bridge construction to a snail's pace.

I want to mitigate the harm as much as any member of Congress. But damage control is not a viable budget policy. Sequestration is a self-inflicted wound, unworthy of those who profess to govern. It is hypocritical and misleading, having imposed indiscriminate cuts on the administration, to pretend that the president can fix the problems with a flick of the wrist.

The remedy lies in a comprehensive budget agreement that puts revenues and all categories of spending on the table. The president's budget reflects such an approach, going beyond the comfort zone of many of his political allies. A similar offer was spurned by Speaker Boehner and House Republicans in December, and sequestration ensued. It is a failure of historic proportions and it must be reversed.

#### BAY COUNTY CENTENNIAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STOCKMAN). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOUTHERLAND) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SOUTHERLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the place that I am proud to call home, Bay County, Florida.

One hundred years ago today, Bay County was established by act of the

Florida Legislature, igniting a century of growth and opportunity for a close-knit community that still cherishes its rich history and traditions.

Bay County is located in the heart of northwest Florida, overlooking 41 miles of sugar-white sand beaches along the gulf coast's emerald green waters. With an additional 270 square miles occupied by pristine lakes, springs, streams, and the magnificent St. Andrews Bay, Bay County has become a national destination for tourists, families, fishermen, boaters, and water sports enthusiasts.

While Bay County's beaches and diverse inland areas attract over 8 million visitors each year, it is its people who live and work there that give this place a unique spirit. A small community of little more than 11,000 people in 1920, Bay County now embodies the drive of a diverse and growing population, totaling more than 170,000 people.

Bay County's workforce is among the best educated and most highly prepared in northwest Florida, with institutions of higher learning that rival any in the region. Its economic engine is fueled not by tourism alone, but also by thriving small businesses, nationally recognized companies, major manufacturers, and one of the newer airports in the United States. And, as the home of Tyndall Air Force Base, Naval Support Activity Panama City, and more than 22,000 veterans, Bay County enjoys a rich military history.

On this day, April 24, 2013, the day of Bay County's centennial, I am proud to join my friends, neighbors, my family, and local and county officials from Panama City, Panama City Beach, Lynn Haven, Springfield, Parker, Callaway, Mexico Beach, and the unincorporated areas of our county to celebrate our past and our bright future as we work hard to make Bay County a better place to live, work, and play.

#### SUDAN PEACE, SECURITY, AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2013

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, 10 years ago, crimes by the Government of Sudan against its own people in Darfur were just beginning. The world witnessed the burning of villages, poisoning of water, murder, rape, brutal assault, and the deliberate forced displacement of entire villages by violence. In 2004, these acts were characterized by the U.S. Government and Congress as genocide.

For the past 6 years, the International Criminal Court has indicted and issued arrest warrants for Sudan's high officials, military commanders, and militia proxies for multiple counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity. In 2009 and 2010, President Omar al-Bashir himself was indicted by the ICC for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide.

International movements in support of the people of Darfur arose around the world, including a broad coalition here in the United States of religious, labor, peace, human rights, and student organizations calling for an end to the genocide in Darfur.

Between 2004 and 2007, Congress passed a series of bills limiting U.S. aid to Sudan and applying sanctions against Sudan for its atrocities in Darfur.

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In 2007, I visited refugee camps in eastern Chad filled with hundreds of thousands of men, women, and children who had fled the violence in Darfur. Each has a personal story of horror and violence. While I was there, the janjaweed crossed the border and attacked two villages inside Chad, displacing thousands of people in the desolate landscape and brutal heat of Sahel in the dry season. I witnessed with admiration the emergency response mobilized within hours by U.N. and international humanitarian agencies and NGOs to provide these newly homeless and traumatized people with water, food, shelter, immunizations, and medical care.

I will never forget those people, those children. And I will never forget the caring of highly professional humanitarian aid workers who provided lifesaving support to these refugees under difficult and dangerous conditions.

Khartoum continues its brutal campaign in Darfur, and there is no end in sight. Eric Reeves, who 10 years ago bravely brought to the world some of the very first photo and video images of the scorched-earth campaign taking place in Darfur, continues to document ongoing atrocities in the region. The primary targets continue to be civilians from African tribal groups surviving tenuously in the chaotic region. Eric is now on the faculty of Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts, and I am very proud to be his Representative in Congress.

Today, the violence and abuses of Darfur have expanded across Sudan. This February, the U.N. reported that over 1.5 million people have been displaced or severely affected because of the violence in Darfur, Abyei, South Kordofan, and Blue Nile, including some 90,000 to 100,000 people newly displaced in Darfur.

For over 3 years, the Sudanese Government has carried out aerial bombing and a scorched-earth campaign against civilians in the states of South Kordofan and Blue Nile under the pretext of battling armed insurgencies that operate in the area. The government continues to deny the World Food Programme and other humanitarian and religious organizations access to South Kordofan and Blue Nile to help the thousands in desperate need of food and basic care. The U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights has stated that abuses by the Government of Sudan in these States may constitute